Experiment of Bio-diesel

†2125. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to study the possibility of the use of Bio-diesel in railways, an experiment was made in Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the results of the experiment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A trial run, using 5% bio-diesel in diesel as fuel, was conducted on 31st December, 2002 in Delhi-Amritsar Shatabdi Express.

(c) The trial run was reported to be successful.

Production of Bio-Diesel

2126. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bio-diesel is being considered as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, the details of research made in this connection; and

(c) the action taken to obtain its patent to ensure its sufficient availability in India by mass tree plantation in rural wastelands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IOC (R&D) has conducted the studies to produce bio-diesel from various vegetable oils, edible and non-edible, on bench scale & pilot plant scale and has tested their suitability as a diesel component for physio-chemical characteristics.

(c) Since the process of production of bio-diesel is well know, the Government of India have not gone for its patent but to ensure the sufficient availability of bio-diesel in India the Planning Commission have chalked out a programme titled 'National Mission on Jatropha' which, *inter alia*, includes mass tree plantation in rural areas through which large scale production of bio-diesel is possible.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.